



Western Canada Immunization Forum 2026

Event Schedule

Two Day Virtual Forum

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

9:00am - 9:30am

Opening Remarks

- Welcome from BCCDC Immunization & Vaccine Preventable Diseases Service — *Dr. Jia Hu*
- Elder Welcome and Opening Acknowledgement — *Glida Morgan, Tla'amin First Nation*
- Video messages from provinces
- BC Deputy Provincial Health Officer Welcome — *Dr. Martin Lavoie, BC*

9:30am - 10:20am

Respiratory Syncytial Virus Immunization Strategies for Preventing Severe Infant RSV Infections — *Dr. Pascal Lavoie, BC & Dr. Jeffrey Wong, BC*

Questions & Answers with *Dr. Pascal Lavoie & Dr. Jeffrey Wong*

Learning Objectives

1. Review the effectiveness, safety, uptake, cost and acceptability of available RSV immunization strategies to prevent severe RSV infections in infants.
2. Highlight the evolution and future direction of the RSV immunization program in British Columbia.

10:20am - 11:05am

Mpox vaccination in Canada: Successes, challenges, and lessons for future outbreak response *Dr. Devon Greyson, BC*

Questions & Answers with *Dr. Devon Greyson*

Learning Objectives

1. Describe barriers and facilitators to mpox vaccination in the recent Canadian outbreak.
2. Recognize the importance of public health/community collaboration in building trust in vaccination.

11:05am - 11:20am

Break

11:20am - 12:00pm

Concurrent Sessions

The Role of Vaccine Safety in Health Services Research

Dr. Ellen Rafferty, AB

Questions & Answers
with *Dr. Ellen Rafferty*

Learning Objectives

1. Understand how vaccine safety is integrated into health services research and economic evaluations.
2. Describe future directions for capturing vaccine safety in health services research.

Evolving eligibility for HPV vaccine in Canada: Impact on Alberta Youth Aged 16–26

Laura Reifferscheid, AB

Questions & Answers
with *Laura Reifferscheid*

Learning Objectives

1. Recognize publicly funded HPV vaccine eligibility policy across Canada.
2. Examine the potential impact changing policy on HPV vaccine uptake among older adolescents/young adults in Alberta.

Transforming School Immunization Processes with Digital Consent

*Elizabeth Lee, BC
Haylie Sinclair, BC*

Questions & Answers
with *Elizabeth Lee & Haylie Sinclair*

Learning Objectives

1. Determine the rationale and benefits of digital consent for school immunizations.
2. Describe the digital consent of workflow and user experience.
3. Identify key considerations for implementation and communication.

12:00pm

Day 1 End

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

9:00am - 9:15am

Opening Remarks & Recap

- Welcome from BCCDC Immunization & Vaccine Preventable Diseases Service — *Dr. Jia Hu*
- Elder Welcome

9:15am - 10:50am

Panel Discussion: Measles Outbreaks across Western Canada

Dr. Jia Hu, BC; Dr. Rakel Kling, BC (Northern Health), Brittany Deeter, BC (First Nations Health); Dr. Vivien Suttorp, AB; Dr. Jasmine Hasselback, SK; Dr. Davinder Singh, MB.

Questions & Answers with Panel Members

Learning Objectives

1. Outline the epidemiology and transmission of measles in Western Canadian jurisdictions.
2. Identify the different approaches to measles case and contact management in the context of increasing case numbers.
3. Describe approaches for engaging under-immunized communities in the context of measles outbreaks.

10:50am - 11:05am

Break

11:05am - 11:50am

Concurrent Sessions

Improving Immunization Coverage in Newcomer Populations in Manitoba

Inga Hossack, MB

Questions & Answers with Inga Hossack

Learning Objectives

1. Identify the gaps in immunization coverage between continuous and non-continuous residents.
2. Describe initiatives that Manitoba has taken to improve newcomer reporting of immunization records into the provincial immunization registry.

Boosting Childhood Immunization Rates Through School-Based Access in Kindergarten

*Vancouver Coastal Health, BC
Jag Gill & Lindsay Symonds*

*Island Health, BC
Laura Hoyseth, Amber Thomas*

Questions & Answers with Jag, Lindsay, Laura & Amber

Learning Objectives

1. Describe school-based strategies for increasing vaccine uptake at 7 years of age.
2. Identify the key steps in implementing kindergarten school-based immunization programs.

The complexity of COVID-19 vaccine decisions: Perspectives from diverse populations

Dr. Michelle Driedger, MB

Questions & Answers with Dr. Michelle Driedger

Learning Objectives

1. To unpack 'vaccine hesitancy'.
2. To understand some of the drivers that underlie vaccine decisions.
3. To identify some vaccine conversation strategies when engaging with diverse populations.

11:50am - 12:00pm

Closing Remarks

12:00pm

Day 2 End

Overall Learning Objectives

Upon completion of the full two-day forum, participants will be able to:

1. Describe new approaches to novel immunization programs such as infant RSV protection, including monoclonal antibodies and maternal immunization.
2. Identify mechanisms for improved community collaboration / engagement in the rollout of novel programs like mpox vaccination.
3. Distinguish between provincial epidemiology and approaches to addressing measles outbreaks across multiple western Canadian jurisdictions, including British Columbia and Alberta.